SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

The US in Direst Straits

THINGS are going from bad to worse for the US. Mr Nixon is frantically squirming to get out of the quicksand but his attempts are only sinking him deeper.

New economic measures have just been announced by the US President, as brakes on the US depression. According to published statistics, in 1971, US industry has been operating at only 73.1% of its capacity. Unemployment rate has reached 5.8% with an upward trend. Official budget deficit of fiscal year 1970-1971 was 23.2 billion dollars. Since February 1971, the volume of banknotes in circulation has been on the upgrade. In the first 7 months of this year, the gap in the balance of payments was 676.4 million dollars, the most serious in 80 years. Inflation is still unchecked, economic doldrums and financial difficulties are increasing. The dollar's depreciation continues unabated. The annual rise in the cost of living is 7%. The army of the poor is 25 million strong with 14 million on the dole.

Meanwhile social evils are rampant, crimes are on the increase. The ranks of university and school drop-outs are swelling due to too high tuition fees. Segregation is growing more bitter. The plight of coloured people, black and brown alike, the first casualties of housing shortage, high cost of education, lay-offs, etc., is desperate.

One of the main causes of the present state of things in the US is its administration's aggression against the countries of Indochina, the longest war in US history. It may have at first stimulated American economy to a certain extent. But it has become apparent that the beneficial effect has since long ended and that the adverse impact has begun to be felt. Employment in war industries has dropped at least by 1/3, which means more jobless while the war tax burden is still weighing heavily on the American people.

The war has thus generated an economic crisis and a political turmoil of unprecedented violence. So far no administration has had to face such a strong protest as the present one. Mr Nixon himself has admitted the existence of a grievous crack in the fabric of US society. The majority of Americans is against the Indochina war, as evidenced by the 1971 Spring drive and previous waves of dissent. The people of the USA want to jerk off the war onus, to conjure away the spectre of Death knocking at their doors to tell them that sons and husbands of theirs have fallen on battlefields thousands of miles away from home. Added to anti-war protest, workers' strikes against ruthless exploitation and for less inhuman working conditions have entered a new and fiercer stage and actions for equal rights by American Negroes, Chicanoes, Puerto Ricans and Indians have been given a fresh impulse.

The economic slump and the political tremor are interacting in the sense of a change for the worse. Economic and social contradictions inherent in the system have been exarcerbated by the US aggression in Indochina. Nixon and Co has been bending all-energies to reverse the tide, but its diplomatic stunts and depredatory economic moves are only provisional palliatives and not at all radical remedies.

President Nixon is certainly not unaware of all this. In his August 15 address, he acknowledged the intolerable load of the Viet Nam war on the US economy. But in a typical piece of deception, he shifted the blame for US present troubles on the winding up of the war by his administration, which has been actually prolonging and expanding it. US press has revealed that annual war expenditures run to 15 to 20 billion dollars and that total spending for the war in Indochina has hit the 200-billion mark. This mere figure spells out the extent to which the aggression has been corroding US economy and society.

If one of the main causes of the present economic and social ailment of the US is its atrocious aggression against Indochina, it is obvious to everyone concerned about the plight of the US that an end to the war, the withdrawal of all the GI's from the peninsula is the only suitable treatment. This conviction has been firing the American people' anti-war drives and cementing them to the movement against racial discrimination and for better living conditions.

Mr Nixon stubbornly refuses to face this hard fact, lost in his dream of world hegemony and of a military decision in Viet Nam and Indochina through "Vietnamization." This obsession is at the bottom of his various palliatives and equivocations.

Since early 1971, he has been indulging in a series of military, economic and diplomatic gambles which have yielded poor results.

In the Highway 9—Southern Laos drive and "Total Victory 1-71" operation he fielded considerable forces and experimented various tactics of "Vietnamization" to secure a position of strength in a losing posture. The outcome has proved disheartening despite a high level of US support and cooperation. In the hands of an army with a sagging morale, the most up-to-date US weaponry has lost all its effectiveness. In face of an adversary with a high sense of purpose, the most sophisticated tactics developed by US military technology and science have fizzled out one after another and the strategic formula Saigon troops + US support has been completely fruitless.

To make good his military reverses, the US President sent out many emissaries on a diplomatic wild goose chase. In another miscalculation he looked for a way out in the wrong direction. Instead of going through the door to peace opened wide by the RSVN PRG seven points he headed for a blind alley. His

(Continued page 5)

Nixon new economic measures or rope walking ?

Cartoon from US Magazine Time

US AGGRESSORS AND "PUBLIC SAFETY" IN SOUTH VIET NAM

In this article, the north American journalist **Michael Klare** *unmasks imperialist penetration into police forces for the purpose of strengthening the bases of support for US monopolistic pillage in neocolonial lands.*

Following are excerpts from article dealing with the situation in South Viet Nam—Ed.

"THE Public Safety program in South Viet Nam is the largest and one of the oldest US police assistance programs—half of AID's Public Safety Advisers and more than half of OPS's annual budget are committed to Viet Nam operations. The Viet Nam program began in 1955, when Michigan State University received a contract from the International Cooperation Administration (AID's predecessor agency) to assemble a team of police experts to advise the government of Ngo Dinh Diem. Ultimately 33 advisers served in the Police Division of the now famous Michigan State University Group (MSUG); of this group, at least a few are known to have been CIA agents. The police division supervised the reorganization of the Viet Nam's decrepit police system, provided training in a variety of police skills, provided small arms and ammunition, and helped establish a modern records system for filing data on political suspects.

The MSUG effort was superseded in 1959 by a Public Safety Division (PSD) under direct US management. In keeping with President Kennedy's call for increased counterinsurgency initiatives, the program was vastly expanded in 1962. Beginning with a staff of six in 1959, the PSD mission in Viet Nam increased to 47 in 1963 and to 204 by mid-1968. Total support of the PSD program had reached 95 417 000 dollars by the end of fiscal year 1968, and has continued at the rate of about 20 million dollars a year (some of these funds are supplied by the Department of Defense rather than by AID). Reflecting the growing military orientation of the pacification program, on May 9, 1967, the Public Safety Division was incorporated in its entirety into Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), the pacification directorate of MACV (Military Assistance Command, Viet Nam).

From the very start of the Viet Nam conflict, the National Police (NP) of South Viet Nam has been regarded by our government as a paramilitary force with certain responsibilities related to the overall counterinsurgency effort. In the Foreword to a manual on **The Police and Resources Control in Counterinsurgency** (Saigon, 1964), Chief Frank E. Walton wrote that "the methods included in this text are emergency procedures not utilized in a normal peace-time situation. They are stringent, war-time measures designed to assist in defeating the enemy..." In order to upgrade Vietnamese police capabilities to carry out its wartime responsibilities, PSD supervised the consolidation of all regional, provincial and specialized police agencies under the directorate of National Police in 1962; and subsequently prepared a "National Police Plan" for Viet Nam in 1964. Under the plan, the NP's personnel strength grew from 19 000 men in 1963 to 52 000 by the end of 1965, 70 000 in 1967, and 85 000 by the end of 1969. To keep pace with this rapid growth, the plan provided for a vast increase in US technical assistance, training, and commodity support. Public Safety Division aid and management has become so extensive, indeed, that the National Police might more properly be considered a US mercenary force than an indigenous institution.

The specific counterinsurgency functions performed by the police—resources control, identification, surveillance and pacification—are spelled out in an OPS brochure on **The Role of the Safety in Support of the National Police of Viet Nam** (Washington, DC, 1969) and in AID's **Program and Project Data Presentations to the Congress for Fiscal Year 1971.**

Resources Control is defined by Public Safety Adviser E.H. Adkins, Jr., as "an effort to regulate the movement of selected resources, both human and material, in order to restrict the enemy's support or deprive him of it altogether... "In order to prevent the flow of supplies and people to and from villages loyal to the National Liberation Front (NLF) 7 700 members of the National Police currently man some 650 checkpoints at key locations on roadways and waterways, and operate mobile checkpoints on remote roads and trails. By 1968, more than 468 456 persons had been arrested in this program, of whom 28 000 were reported as "VC suspects." AID reported that "Resources control efforts in 1969 resulted in nearly 100 000 arrests including more than 10 000 known or suspected VC Confiscations included 50 000 units of medicine drugs, and 6 000 tons of contraband foodstuffs."

The National Identity Registration Program is described by OPS as "an integral part of the population and resources control program." Under a 1957 law, amended in 1967, every Vietnamese 15 years and older is required to register with the Saigon government and carry identification cards; anyone caught without the proper ID cards is considered a "VC suspect" and subject to imprisonment or worse. At the time of registration, a full set of fingerprints is obtained from each applicant, and information on his or her political beliefs is recorded. By 1971, 12 000 000 persons are to have been reached by this identification registration program. "Once completed," AID explains, "the identification system will provide for a national repository of fingerprints and photographs and biographical data. It will be one of the most complete national identification systems in the world and one of the most badly needed."

(To be continued)

MICHAEL KLARE

From the **Tricontinental** *No 21 and 22.*

Nixon and Calley, his hero
Cartoon from Liberation News Service

GROWING CONFUSION *IN SAIGON*

THIEU'S election farce, awkwardly staged dy the US, continues to provoke growing "political unrest" in Saigon.

After Nguyen Cao Ky's refusal to run, E. Bunker has had to meet him and Thieu for several occasions. The U.S. Embassy in Saigon has therefore been in flurry.

Thieu has deployed more paratroopers to defend the "Independence Palace" and control the roads leading to it. US and satellite troops have been ordered off the streets after office hours until further notice.

On August 24, many students hurled bottles of petrol on two US buses and burned them down in protest against US interference in South Viet Nam's internal affairs.

Most of Saigon papers urged that Thieu should not only resign but also not run for the presidency.

AP said on August 23 that South Viet Nam was facing the worst political turmoil since the Buddhist revolt in 1966.

Meanwhile, Saigon city has been flooded with streamers demanding peace, protesting against the US and Thieu and corruption, claiming welfare and the right to live. Many posters bearing Nixon's portrait with Hitler's moustache and the devil's long teeth, and banners reading "Resist US, save the country" were stuck up right in front of the Saigon national assembly building. American policemen coming to tear them up met with the people's strong opposition. Instead the latter ripped to pieces posters and pictures campaigning for Thieu's supporters.

Demonstrations against Thieu's election farce have broken out in many places such as Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, Bac Lieu. My Tho... Many political and social organizations kept denouncing Thieu's repression and persecution of the oppostion parties standing for fair elections.

The Movement for National Self-Determination in Saigon has issued a communique baring Thieu as a dictator and his prolongation of the war and calling for a conference against dictatorship, for the removal of Thieu and restoration of peace. Van Hanh University Students have set up a *Committee Against Fraudulent Elections* and made public an "indictment of Thieu's four criminal years." The *Committee for the People's Right to Live* also issued a statement protesting against Thieu's crack down on "opposition candidates."

Tran Viet Nghia, a disabled armyman, set fire to himselft on August 16 in front of the Saigon Mayor's Office in protest against the presence of the US aggressors in South Viet Nam and Thieu's manipulations of the coming presidential election. Two other self-immolations for similar purposes took place in Da Nang and Da Lat.

After Ky, Duong Van Minh also published secret documents revealing Thieu's instructions to provincial governors to suppress the opposition parties in an attempt to secure his victory. Recently, public opinion in Saigon castigated E. Bunker's effort to bribe Minh and Ky into the presidential race.

According to Western reports from Saigon, both the US and Thieu were faced with an explosive situation as a result of ever mounting protest by the opposition parties and possible anti-election demonstrations. A thing which drew the American bosses' attention was that Saigon generals "this time felt less enthusiastic at Thieu's decision (to stand for the election alone) than in 1967 (presidential elections), and only 3 generals approved it."

On August 24, a candidate belonging to the opposition and at the time director of the paper *Thoi Dai Moi* (New Time) announced his walk out from the rigged election.

Exposing the US-Thieu responsibility for the deteriorating situation in Saigon, MP Ton That Dinh, Editor-in-Chief of the paper *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) wrote in its August 25 issue:

"It is a time of choice for the Americans...

In face of President Thieu's obduracy, the Americans have no other recourse than a unilateral decision. Thieu has taken such an obdurate attitude because he is sure of US support. To save the situation, Washington must sacrifice Thieu and show that every personality and policy can be changed according to the requirements of the situation." (French paper *Combat* 25, 1971).

In Washington as well as in Saigon, everyone is expected utter confusion if not an uprising in the S.V.N. capital.

A TRIPLE AGITATION IN URBAN CENTRES

FOR over one month now, spirited actions have been staged in Saigon and other urban centres in South Viet Nam against the US and its quislings, the Nguyen Van Thieu clique: the movement in support of the PRG seven points and for US acceptance of the peace proposal as a basis for serious negotiations to end the Viet Nam war; the drive for cancellation of income tax and against arbitrary sacking of works, protracted tumultuous demonstrations of students and pupils against repression and militarization of school, and chiefly the widespread agitation against fraud and for the overthrow of Nguyen Van Thieu.

THE flexible and concrete peace offer of the PRG of the RSVN at the Paris Conference on July 1, 1971 has been hailed by the press and townspeople as a "great effort to help the US get out with honour of the South Viet Nam bog and restore to the Vietnamese people their self determination right." Slogans have been diplayed everywhere demanding that the US imperialists set a deadline for the total pull-out of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam as soon as possible, stop backing Nguyen Van Thieu and let the Vietnamese free to settle their own affairs. Many "MPs" and mass organizations have taken to task the Nixon administration's dubious attitude. In such provinces as My Tho, Ben Tre, and Rach Gia, since the announcement of the PRG peace initiative, Saigon troops have disobeyed marching orders, scored Nguyen Van Thieu and Nixon as die-hard and bellicose people and urged an end to the war so that they can return home. The visiting American student's delegation also signed with the South Vietnamese Students' General Association a statement warmly welcoming the PRG seven points and criticizing Nixon's diplomatic stunts aimed at side-tracking US and world public attention.

In the last few days, workers and labouring people in South Viet Nam urban centres have not remained idle. After a 9-day strike, the Saigon port dockers got their American employers not to lay them off and cut their wages. Meanwhile "Air Viet Nam" fliers staged a ca' canny strike for a wage lift and refused to work overtime. 600 workers of the Caric ship building yard in Saigon, over 300 delegates of TU, men and women employees' organizations met to claim wage boost and suppression of tax on wages. The congress of 18,000 Vietnamese working in American firms denounced the employers' manhandling them and humiliating the women workers. But the biggest stoppage was that staged on July 29 and 30 by 40,000 workers, members of 26 TU organizations in Saigon fighting for the cancellation of tax on wages, in which take part all the Saigon port dockers affiliated to the Vietnamese Workers' Confederation of Labour and many organizations outside the *Wage Tax Reduction Mobilization Committee*, such as the Russell Pharmacy TU and the Silen Workers' TU. Besides 20 banking companies, this action has brought all the military and economic activities of the Americans and their quislings to a standstill, causing them a loss of over 4 billion piastres. Referring to this event, the Saigon paper *Gio Nam* described it "as a major walk out for lower tax on wages." In the wake of that drive, one could witness the stubborn struggle of Vietnamese airmen, of the workers at the Viso detergent firm against sacking and exploitation and for wage increase. As an effective response to Thieu's obduracy, 126 TU organizations which met in Saigon on August 18 to discuss the workers' living conditions warned that should Thieu continue to ignore their claim for tax reduction, one million workers would down tools.

WHILE the Americans and Nguyen Van Thieu were at their wits' end to cope with the movements in support of the PRG seven points and for better living standard, they had to face a frantic campaign in urban centres against the election manipulations. So far there has scarcely been an action of such size a this. A profusion of banners were displayed and leaflets distributed in the streets flaying the US and Thieu's tricks. The peace organizations, the opposition parties, the Buddhists and "MPs" have come out against Thieu, labelling him a fascist warmonger and tyrant, and demanded that the Americans abstain from meddling in the elections. Committees of action against election fraud" and "commissions for the collection of petitions" have been set up to gather signatures for an end to the war and reestablishment of peace. Many deputies, representatives and provincial councillors also have declared against Thieu's vote-getting moves. Seven parties of the opposition founded the "Election Supervision Committees," many MPs and representatives established "the National Assembly" Anti-election Fraud Committees" and the students', mass and religious organizations set up the "anti-dictatorial movement" against the election rigging of the Thieu clique.

Soldiers of the Saigon army also have joined hands with the civilians. Under the with Thieu, the war drags on" watchword, they have been telling one another not to vote for Thieu and his confederates. Up to now, three war invalids have immolated themselves by burning in protest against the election frauds and Thieu's ruthlessness towards them. Despite the many troubles they have experienced, such as seizures of their issues and fines, the Saigonese papers continue to carry articles criticizing cooked elections and pointing out that these are decided by Nixon. *Dien Tin* affirmed on August 13 that "Nixon is not yet willing to bring the war to an end. He still finds in Thieu a placeman to implement his "Vietnamization."

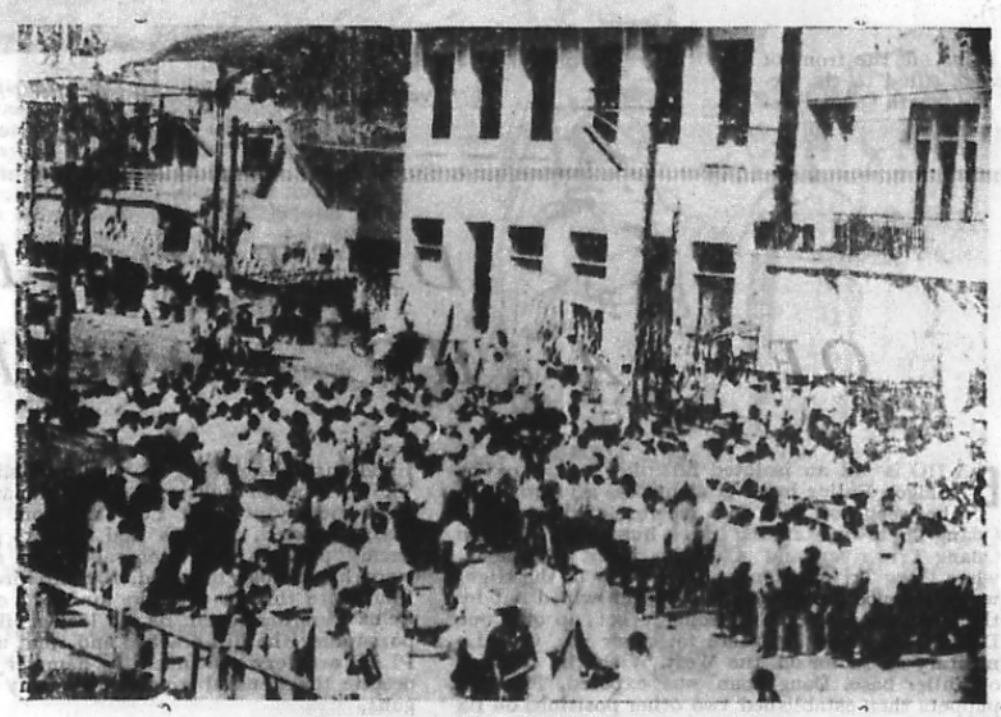
At present the stalwarts of the actions against electoral frauds in Saigon are the school youth. Parallel to the campaign against the militarization of school, repression of students and pupils, increase of tuition fees, youths in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Da Lat, Can Tho, Vinh Long also take part in the "pre-election" and "speaking to our compatriots" drives to expose the US dark designs on South Viet Nam and tempering with the Saigon elections. On July 31, the "School youth's movement to watch the elections" in Saigon sent "mobile teams" to various towns to urge the inhabitant to participate in the crusade against cooked elections.

In Hue, school youths visited many rural localities where they distributed leaflets, bared Thieu's handling of the election and hung "With the US and Thieu the war is going on" and "we oppose the election swindle" banners.

In Saigon, the students displayed at market places, over twenty effigies of Nguyen Van Thieu with the "Let President Thieu dispose of himself" watchword followed by the caption "Vote for the four nay's ticket: no fatherland, no home, no food, no clothing" accompanied by a death verdict.

THE actions for an end to the war and pull-out of GIs coupled with the drive against fraudulent election and for better living conditions, constitute the gist of the battle waged by South Vietnamese townsfolk. Carried out under variegated forms, they have highlighted the solidarity and resolve of the broad masses to foil the sordid manoeuvres of the US and Nguyen Van Thieu who are obtinately prolonging the war through "Vietnamization": they are enjoying new factors of development. Even Nguyen Cao Ky has admitted that like a tidal wave the opposition forces are unrestrained. They are out to sweep the Thieu clique and their US masters into the abyss of total collapse.

T.G.



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Students in Saigon, Hue and other cities upholding the revolutionary spirit of Autumn 1945, continue acting as the fuse of the urban people's agitation

THE LAME HORSE AND THE "VIETNAMIZATION" HEARSE

DEFYING all cajolery and pressure from Bunker, the White House representative in Saigon, Nguyen Cao Ky decided to withdraw from the October "presidential" race. He refused to act as a skid for the "Vietnamization" hearse drawn by the lame horse Nguyen Van Thieu which was sliding headlong into an abyss.

Saigon opinion viewed this decision of General Ky as a move of someone still not lost to the sense of honour. Following General Minh's resolve to walk out of the rigged "presidential" election, it was a second blow at Bunker, the clumsy stage manager, and completely laid bare Nguyen Van Thieu, the buffoon of this democracy comedy.

It was noted with interest by observers that neither the dollar nor the White House tricks were capable of bringing under control the current complicated political situation in Saigon, since the awakening of the masses constituted an irresistible factor which compelled even a man like General Ky to ponder over and over again before acting.

That the mask of Thieu, the buffoon, was completely torn down was a heavy setback suffered by the Yankees who schemed to cook elections for the furtherance of their "Vietnamization" policy through the agency of Nguyen Van Thieu. Neither Ky nor any other opposition leader has accepted to play Thieu's stooge and, as a result, the already rickety "Vietnamization" hearse was made even more rickety and its limping horse was now standing before a real abyss full of dangers generated by the revolutionary masses and by the Thieu regime's internal dissensions as well.

With a "four-nays" bell on his neck the jade Nguyen Van Thieu was lonely drawing a cart filled with corpses that had changed colour. Under Bunker's whip, it was trying to get out of the "Independence Palace," but who knows where it was going to. Would the US be bold enough to let it drag alone the cart through the maze of the forthcoming election, or would it resort to other ploys to help it out of its present state of dereliction?

It will not be ruled out that, in the immediate future, Washington would shrink from no sordid and ludicrous trick to attain its goal: to continue using Nguyen Van Thieu for the implementation of its "Vietnamization" policy. But whatever it may do, it has to face a hard fact: the "Vietnamization" hearse is heading for an abyss, pulled by a lame horse. What the various social segments in South Viet Nam cities are trying to do at this moment is kicking the lame horse into its fall with the "Vietnamization" hearse behind it.

REPEATED EXPLOIT IN NORTH QUANG TRI

FOLLOWING the brilliant feats on Peak 544, Doi Tron, Cam Lo military subsector HQs and a series of positions along Highway 9 from Con Tien to Bai Son, on August 14 and 15 the North Quang Tri armed forces and people sprang fierce attacks on Ba Ho, Dong Toan, Nameless Hill and intercepted reinforcements, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy.

UPI described it as the most vicious strike by rockets, guns and infantry, since Fuller firebase had been rushed on June 23, 1971. *AFP* also disclosed that enemy pressure had increased with sustained infantry assaults and artillery poundings.

Ba Ho and Dong Toan are two important bases in the defence system of Highway 9 linked with the other positions on Peaks 544, 241, Con Tien, Doc Mieu... by a mutual ground and artillery support to check all PLAF actions. With US artillery and air support and strong fortifications, the Saigon marines sent there by the US command vainly opposed a grim resistance. On August 14 and 15, the North Quang Tri liberation troops hammered at the enemy nerve centres, razed Ba Ho and Dong Toan positions, crushed the reinforcements, and drove the adversary into dire straits. Their base destroyed and their forces badly mauled, the Saigon marines' confusion reached a peak.

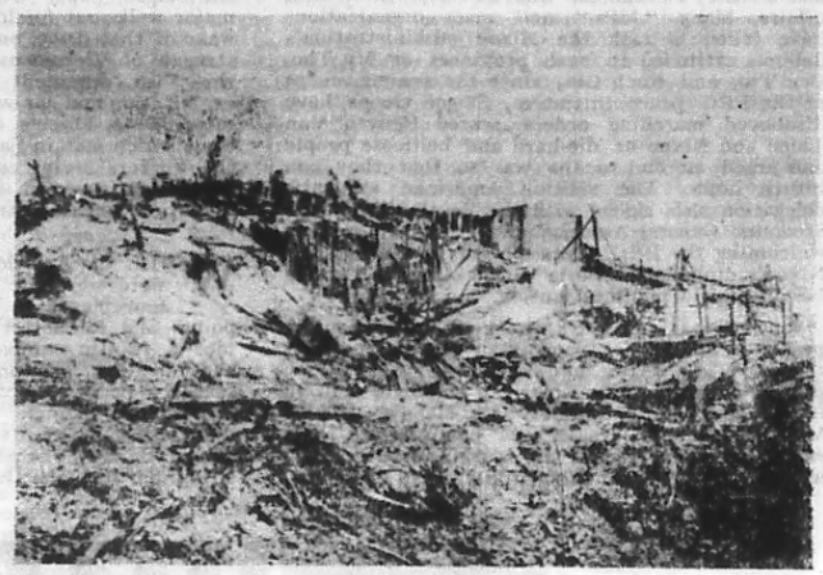
Since its disaster on Highway 9 - Southern Laos the crack Saigon First Division had been unable to fulfil its mission on this battlefield. The US-Saigon command had been forced to consolidate the Highway 9 front with the marines from the strategic reserve force of the Saigon army. But the latter who were severely decimated by the PLAF during Operation Lam Son 719 and had been daily receiving stinging blows, were no better than the First Division. *BBC* remarked on August 17 that the morale of the Saigon units in the north was cracking, while *Reuter* on the same day pointed out that the South Viet Nam marines utterly exhausted had been forced to hack out a way through thick forests to get to the rescuing helicopters.

With the other fierce battles, the Ba Ho success of the North Quang Tri liberation armed forces has worsened the military situation of the US-Saigon on the Highway 9 front (*UPI*, August 15). The US plan to replace the withdrawing GIs by Saigon troops has been gravely upset. Thus units of the American 24th Division have been sent to re-occupy Mai Loc to support the South Vietnamese marines under vigorous and repeated PLAF assaults. (*AP*, August 17).

The PLAF gains on the front of Highway 9 have testified to the development of the North Quang Tri liberation armed forces' flexible and creative tactics, coordinated use of infantry and artillery, and ability to knock out both the enemy in their fortifications and their reinforcements. They have held firm their initiative, made the most of good opportunities, proved highly devastating and helped wipe out a great amount of enemy manpower and war means.

It has been made clear that the Saigon troops cannot escape lamentable failure despite G.I support and the "maximum" cover of US artillery and air force. A disparate army fighting without an ideal, they are nodding to their collapse both in morale and organization. They hope they can rely on strong fortifications and US firepower support to cope with the PLAF. But facts have proved that whether on the move or digging in in solid works under a thick artillery cover, they are not immune from PLAF onsets.

With the repeated setbacks on the Highway 9 front, "Vietnamization" is being put to a severe test.



A "Peak enclave" of US-Saigon troops after PLAF attack

Ready to turn US-puppet fortifications into graveyards of the enemy

DESTRUCTION OF BA HO POSITION

BA HO is not an isolated hill like Peak 544, US-Saigon Fuller base. It comprises a row of hills between 500 and 600 metres 35km west of Quang Tri town, standing like a huge dam between Quang Tri river and Cam Lo river. Formerly, when Dong Tri position and Peak 544 of the Highway 9 defence system had not been wiped out by the Liberation troops, the enemy set up only one Dong Toan position there to cover the Cam Lo military subsector on the West. With the collapse of Fuller base, Dong Toan was exposed. The US-puppets then established two other positions on Ba Ho: Alpha 1 and Alpha 2. Alpha 1 is the highest hill (596m) and Alpha 2 is a nameless hill further south 3 km north of Dong Toan.

All the three bases were manned by the 6th battalion of the Saigon marine 258th brigade. They had solid fortifications like Fuller, plus 7 rows of barbed wire and automatic mine-fields outside, and 3 layers of block-houses and underground bunkers inside connected to one another by a network of trenches with wood walls. Apart from an artillery company at Dong Toan, Ba Ho could be supported by the artillery at Base 241, Mai Loc, Cam Lo and other places and the 11th armoured regiment at Bai Son when necessary. In spite of this strong defence system the enemy was constantly on tenter-hooks. Fuller, Dong Tri, Cam Lo successively came under PLAF fires.

On the night of August 11, the Liberation troops again attacked Cam Lo, swept away the enemy at Doi Tron and Ban Hieu, throwing consternation among the Ba Ho defenders. That very evening, 12. B.52s assaulted the surroundings. But soon after the raid, the "Viet Cong" already closed in and began the siege.

The autumn night was clear over Highway 9 and filled with the roaring of planes, bombs and guns. The Liberation fighters were stimulated by the fresh victory of Cam Lo—Doi Tron. At 6:12 the assault started. All guns and mortars pounded the enemy position. The central sector and the CP were hit. Smoke billowed. Barbed wire and sheet iron were thrown into the air. 80% of the mine-fields were destroyed. Ba Ho looked like a plucked porcupine: the hill cracked and went up in flames. PLAF artillery continued to hammer at the base despite the frenzied riposte of enemy planes and guns.

At sunset, 14 armed helicopters whirred in but dared not land. Night fell. The Liberation forces pressed in under enemy fire and overran the fortifications. They pumped bullets and grenades into all trenches and gun nests. Within 30 minutes, the whole garrison was wiped out or captured. A group of 20 men tried to flee toward Dong Toan but fell into an ambush: a cadet was captured and all the other officers killed.

Morning came. 12 helicopters loaded with troops flew in, circled over Ba Ho and swooped down. 4 were downed, the others fled helter-skelter. The enemy at Dong Toan sallied forth in an attempt to retake Ba Ho in coordination with the 2nd battalion and an armoured squadron coming from Cam Lo. But they were sent by PLAF artillery into a stampede. Rescuing jets were also fired at so fiercely that they dropped bombs on their allies. Enemy infantry and tanks suffered heavy losses and had to withdraw to Cam Lo and Dong Toan where they dug in.

The NFL banner now fluttering on Ba Ho is stirring the North Quang Tri Liberation fighters into new feats.

T.T.

Saigon Youths' *Autumn Protest*

AUTUMN has set in, but Saigon does not hear very distinctively the nature's voice though it is now in the heart of the season.

A minority of uprooted, alienated, derelict and absent-minded people seem to deliberately deny the existence of autumn here.

Truly speaking, this handful of people fear autumn. They are not afraid of the falling yellow leaves, but of the tumultuous militancy of the autumn of that year which has gone down in history not as a still life but as a demonstration of the people's will, ineluctable like nature's cycle of seasons.

In Saigon, in the current days of August, one has seen the same bright look of vanguard youths of the August of yore.

The youth of that period was the image of that of the present time and the youth at present is actually the image of that period's youth.

The sticks used against the Japanese and French invaders formerly are now pointed at the US aggressors and their servants.

While investigating the "20th Generation," Professor Ly Chanh Trung said: "As the youths keep their heads high, they will not resign to the drastic realities in their home land and will surely rise up in protest and to wrest back their motherland's heritage. They prove to be the country's most beloved sons."

Truly, the Saigon youths, a powerful part of the Vietnamese youth in South Viet Nam, are really South Viet Nam's most beloved sons. They are no longer "haggard like yellow deers trampling on dried yellow leaves," a simile from a poem by Luu Trong Lu. But instead, they have found the "sun of truth shining through their hearts," as To Huu said and then "stood up and march forward", march for ever, march and fighttirelessly to wrest back the Motherland's heritage.

This is because they are resolved:

If I am to be a flower, I shall be a sun-flower,
If I am to be a man, I shall die for the homeland.

And decidedly they will not tolerate the sight of their homeland torn-up, devastated and ground down by the Huns of our times.

This is because they have more than once promised to their mother that:

The first reading lessons you gave me formerly
I have now copied in bitter words.
With father's heroic blood in the anti-French resistance.
I have changed them into stirring calls
I shall turn verses into pointed stakes
To abolish the hirelings in literature and arts,
To avenge my father and the country
And lift my head to see the future.

The Saigon youths are really South Viet Nam's beloved sons, because they have the heroic blood of their fathers and brothers in their veins, beating the valiant drums of the August Revolution Autumn so that the "Autumn's protest of the people" will no longer be heard, so that mothers and sons will no longer groaning under the foreigners' bombs and land-clearing poisons.

The autumn protest of the Saigon youths has not only stripped the trees but also uprooted alien varieties which Uncle Sam has been making all-out efforts to acclimatize on this stretch of land.

Look back! The Ngo Dinh Diem anthropophageous tree, despite its many roots and branches and a large foliage finally had all its roots and branches broken to pieces in Winter that year, and nobody can deny the Saigon youth's share in this happening.

A similar thing occurred in the following year. The Nguyen Khanh regime collapsed like a banana-tree hacked down near its foot. And even now, one still has a vivid memory of Saigon youths turning out into the streets, clenching their teeth and tearing to pieces the Vung Tau Charter right under Uncle Sam's nose.

Looking farther back, perhaps in 1950, one can see the Saigon young people appearing like a main army in a huge demonstration, and the marchers' foot stamping alone was an accusation cogent enough to drive the US aggressors home.

And what about the present? The Nguyen Van Thieu regime is like a flickering lamp before the masses' storm..., and the Saigon youth is actually one of the strongest whirlwind in the centre of the hurricane. While Thieu's war tribunal was passing a death sentence on a certain innocent and honest person, youths paraded in Saigon, hanging Thieu in effigy and demanding his execution.

A capital penalty? How many patriotic youths, students and pupils have been sent to the execution-ground by the traitors?

Hard labour and deportation life terms? There are a great many youths confined in "tiger cages" at Con Son Island or at Chi Hoa, Thu Duc, and Tan Hiep jails. All these atrocities will not intimidate them, because they have in their hands "the swords sharpened for a thousand years," in their hearts the irrepressible blood of their fathers and brothers, under their feet large mountains and long rivers, and also the everlasting revolutionary autumn.

THE youths continue to march forward and sing their fathers and brothers' indomitable sougs. They keep their heads high and continue to stamp the Vietnamese gold footprints on the pages of history. If it is necessary to die, the youths are ready to lay down their lives, because death gives birth to life.

The youths which were present in yesterday's fight, are present in today's battle and will be for ever present in the long struggle to regain the motherland's heritage.

The autumn voice of the past will never be forgotten. The present autumn voice is the echo of the former one. Saigon does not distinctively hear the autumn voice of the nature but clearly does the autumn voice from the hearts of the youths.

A. H.

A Saigon student

The US in Direst Straits

(Continued from page 1)

shifts and shuffles to shirk a serious response to the overture have only aggravated the stalemate of the Paris Conference and made him stray deeper into the tunnel with no end in sight.

Following his August 15 diplomatic ploy, he attempted an economic manoeuvre which he boasted would absorb labour redundancy, check inflation and stabilize the dollar. But his move instantly sparked off widespread opposition at home and abroad and even from US staunchest allies, because of its true essence as a subterfuge to rob the common people and to compound unemployment, as a declaration of bankruptcy with regard to US allies and as a veiled devaluation of the dollar. It is not likely to alleviate US economic and financial difficulties and will instead worsen them. It will not pour oil on the US troubled political waters and will instead increase Mr Nixon's estrangement from the masses and further weaken his position. Only a handful of people will benefit from it at the expense of the greatest majority of Americans including small businessmen. The clamour against his predatory measures, and for higher pay and jobs has been growing more uproarious. The governor of Texas for one has flouted the freeze on the salaries of teachers and white-collar workers.

Outside the United States, the major stock exchanges have been contemplating retaliatory actions. The chasm between the US and its allies, chiefly between its most dependable ones like Japan and West Germany has been widened. There is no hope for a change for the better in the US economy plagued by inner contradictions and disastrous effects of the war of aggression in Indochina.

Is the US predicament really desperate? A way out has been however shown to Mr Nixon, that is a termination to the Indochina war, which will remove one of the most adverse factors of US economic and financial doldrums. Its continuation and expansion will naturally add to the confusion. And Mr Nixon will certainly not be able to "float," as a result of his miscalculations.

Films on Viet Nam

A WONDERFUL DISCORVERY

IN the 60s, the world made a "wonderful and stirring discovery," not in geography or science and technology, but of Viet Nam, her land and people, with her civilized way of life, lofty spiritual values and sense of the dignity of the man of our times. Viet Nam has practically become the "centre of international events," the "Heart of the World" as the title of a book by Swedish woman writer Sara Lidman says.

With their instinctive "flair", film makers from Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the USA, have from the outset been pouring into Viet Nam. Cinematography has thus done its bit in an interesting "discovery." Particularly since 1965, films on Viet Nam have drawn universal attention and won successive prizes in Film Festivals:

— Joris Ivens' **Sky and Earth** was awarded the Jury's Special Prize in the 1960 Leipzig International Documentary Film Festival, and 3 other prizes in Cannes and Venice;

Carrying ammunition to the battle-front, a scene of the film **Going up the line** *by* Giai Phong *Film Studio*

— Cuban Santiago Alvarez — Ivan Napolet's **Hanoi, Tuesday 13,** and American Jerry Stone's **Boys and Girls** won the Golden Dove of the 1967 Leipzig International Film Festival whose jury awarded the Silver Dove to **Far from Viet Nam** by well-known Western cineastes;

— **79 Springs,** a Cuban production in praise of President Ho Chi Minh earned two prizes: Leipzig Golden Dove in 1969 and first prize in Holland in 1970;

— **Viet Nam is so near** (Bulgaria) was a prize-winner at the Phnom Penh International Festival Film in 1969, etc...

13 out of 47 entries dealt with Viet Nam in the 1966 Leipzig International Film Festival. Not to mention works by amateurs, western progressive organizations and of course Vietnamese film-makers from both zones.

For any new-comer the first impression of VietNam is striking: the landscape, customs, Vinh Linh with its underground labyrinth, Hanoi, the evergreen capital, Saigon's daily "turning-outs" into the streets, swarming with American MPs and all kinds of soldiery, legends on the jungle mysterious trails and so on. This of course is quite understandable from curious tourists setting foot on an embattled country. But gradually and more and more profoundly, essentially, they come to "discover" Viet Nam, her land and man.

When they are far away, what makes cineastes muse is how a small nation's civilization can survive that deluge of US steel and iron. This assuredly can't be seen at any time and anywhere else. By nature, the Viet Nam war is today a fierce confrontation of two civilizations, two historical forces. Cuban **Hanoi, Tuesday 13** unfolds and winds up with symbolic images of Viet Nam's millenary culture: Ho village's coloured wood-cuts and those of **Drum Street** retell the dream and hopes of a 4,000-year old Southeast Asian nation on the shore of the Pacific. That people have defeated the mightiest ever invaders in history. Brass drums, statues, earthenware appear in colours on the screen, (the rest of the film being black and white), a real symphony of hues extolling craftsmanship, the concepts on aesthetics, ethics and happiness which have become he thinking and way of life of the Vietnamese.

However, in that people no signs of conservatism or narrow-mindedness can be seen. In Viet Nam, the old seems to merge with the new. The impression is that the old never intervenes in, but harmonizes and gets blended with, the present daily life. The contrast and juxtaposition of sequences on Viet Nam's millenary culture presented in harmonious tones, immediately followed by white and black sequences showing the violent confrontation with the US war machine, brings to the lime light the theme of **Hanoi, Tuesday 13**: Viet Nam resistance to brutal invading forces.

Most frequent in the these prize-winning films and others are daily life scenes in the streets, young girls buying flowers, the Tet festival in Hanoi, a pedicab carrying blocks of ice, a refectory in war time, a young couple strolling about the park with their baby, a cup of coffee in the tea-house near the Hanoi Small Lake, etc., all the routine that needs no eloquence, because it occurs "*under* the bombs," or as Premier Pham Van Dong more aptly put it to journalist Oliver Todd, "*face-to-face* with bombs."

This again is another discovery to the credit of overseas cameramen.

Everything synonymous with destruction, devastation, annihilation, ravage, wreckage, ruins rubble can be seen here in Viet Nam. But also here in Viet Nam there exists something unseen so far in any wars, something which, unless eyewitnessed, challenges all explanations, we mean the placidity, self-control, miraculous vitality of the Vietnamese confronting the Pentagon's war fury.

Roger Pic, a French author and film producer, (he went to eastern Nam Bo in 1967 and was in North Viet Nam before and during the days of US war of destruction there) is extremely sensitive to the slightest details of Viet Nam's daily life and very likely makes them a leit-motiv in numbers of films, particularly in his "Failure in escalation" which commands attention. He finds in Viet Nam a vivid illustration of Hemingway's famous words: When you fight for your motherland, war becomes ordinary work days.

Jean-Paul Sartre was meditating at length on this when writing the preface to Roger Pic's Album "Within Viet Nam." These pictures are probably R.Pic's most condensed impressions, feelings and thoughts after visiting, writing articles and shooting films on Viet Nam. Wrote J.P. Sartre: "Right now from this powerful mirror, (photos of Viet Nam), the extraordinary attraction is constant affirmation of the future, like a rainbow spanning over the horrors of the present. That firm confidence springs from the laughter of little children, the charm of two young girls walking about a city bombed many times a day, from the wilful silence of that serene woman rummaging amidst heap of rubble. That the Vietnamese are defending our own dignity, the materials presented us amply bear witness to it. These women, men, children the mightiest power in the world is trying to bring to their knees by most criminal brutalities, never do I see in their eyes the least sign of fear or loss of heart, instead wrath and a kind of determination, not grim but thoughtful, placid, restrained, I would say, natural.

"To prove onoself a man under such inhuman conditions is a real challenge to the barbarians. Moreover, becoming men and women yet richer in hopes, more harmonious, more responsible by negating destruction, this in fact is a victory of each of us."

Perhaps most interesting are those images beaming with veracity. Real heroism is completely alien to any kinds of embellishment. "The house is to shelter us from rain and sun, the underground hide-out to protect our flesh and bones," say Vinh Linh farmers in Joris Ivens' film. We must understand this as a lesson learnt at the price of sweat and blood, another interpretation of Hemingway's words. As for Joris Ivens, he wants to show it on the screen: "Yes, I was there. I eyewitnessed it. That's true." What we must bear in mind is that most of the spectators have not yet set foot on Viet Nam. And as the Western world has had its own experience in the two world wars, and is living a "dull, insipid present," a chronic "credibility gap," skepticism and humour which Western intelligentzia is so fond of, have made the showing of naked truth on the screen a real necessity.

Then a smile after the bombing, an American pilot's grave tended by North Vietnamese peasants, the kind treatment "beyond all imagination" meted to captured US airmen contrasted with the people's still low living standard, steel-pellets bombs put aside little children's straw helmets, are to give much food for thought to the audience. These have been convincing explanations of the Vietnamese behaviour regarded just yesterday as "supranatural" and virtually an incomprehensible phenomenon. Noteworthy is that through the "Viet Nam phenomenon," the audience has had the opportunity to have an insight into the Western society and draw up an inventory of its spiritual values. The Western civilization has been questioned and judged in **Far from Viet Nam,"** a popular collective creation of well-known Western film derectors Allen René, Joris Ivens, Jean Luc Godard, Claude Luc, Anne Varda, Krit Maquai and William Klen. The film includes documents shot in France, America, Cuba and both zones of Viet Nam. Besides sequences on the Viet Nam conflict, that documentary while testifying to the impotence of US highly mechanized war means before the patriotism and heroism of the Vietnamese, makes clear the relationship between that fact with the world destiny. To the credit of **Far from Viet Nam** is an original innovation designed to break the cold objectivism of facts and underline the critical character of the production. One of its directors, Allen René, in the symbolic part of a man of the upper class, appears on the screen, talking in apartes, tortured by his own conscience, embarrassed and unable to find answers to the most elementary problems of life, to the nagging questions raised by the Viet Nam conflict.

The war in Viet Nam has been viewed from different angles and on a world scale. It has in fact divided the world today. Nor has America — perpetrator and casualty of the war — been able to avoid scission. The moving images of those days have been fixed by the celluloid, shown on the screens and will live for ever. Before us there exist two Americas: the one of Morrison, the other of Johnson, Nixon. Although the latter is bragging on the TV, soft-speaking in the press or parleying across the world, she can't hide her inhumane and immoral nature, nor her panic before the metamorphosis of the "silent majority" into an "angry majority" right within her.

The last sequence of **Far from Viet Nam** pictures one of its producers, Jean Luc Godard, talking directly to the audience on "brain washing," on Western intelligentzia's disavowal of its indifference for more active citizenship.

"Viet Nam is not amazed by our generosity but by her own behaviour," Jean Luc Godard declares.

So, out of wonder, foreign film makers have come to scrutinize, explain the "Viet Nam phenomenon" and finally "discover" Viet Nam's humanist values and heroism. Amidst the darkest and fiercest hostilities, a civilized life, a judicious concept of ethics, a deep concern about human soul's rich harmony have thus been preserved, enhanced, and kept radiating. That is the "noblest merit of a country, of a nation," as Premier Pham Van Dong often says. That is also a matter that makes foreign film-makers ponder again and again while focusing their cameras on Viet Nam.

From Radio the VOICE OF VIET NAM
(DRVN)

The DRVN *in Brief*

● *Premier Pham Van Dong had a cordial interview with two delegations of the anti-war movement of the American people respectively of the American People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and the National Peace Action Coalition. He welcomed and expressed high appreciation of the anti-war actions of the American people in the recent past, especially in the 1971 Spring - Offensive. The American people's representatives praised the determination and creativeness of the Vietnamese people in their resistance to US aggression for national salvation and promised to step up their co-ordinated actions in the United States against the VN war.*

● *During the "two well" emulation movement (teach well and learn well) the Hanoi educational service and many provinces in North Viet Nam like Ha Tinh, Hai Duong... have been summing up the experience of the advanced schools in preparation for the 1971-1972 academic year.*

● *As practical celebrations of the 26th August Revolution and Independence Days, workers at various factories have been emulating one another in improving techniques and the quality of products. The motor-transport enterprises No 2 has launched many emulation drives for better maintenance of lorries and to increase deliveries to agriculture. Cadres and workers at the Hanoi railway repair shop have been engaged in a emulation drive for timely repair and good maintenance of 26 trains for traffic during the National Day celebrations. The local industry service of Haiphong has set up six more mobile teams to control the quality of products and helped the factories in the town work out comprehensive industrial processes and fix the quality norms for 75 items of goods, mostly necessities.*

● *Light industry has satisfactorily fulfilled its first half-year plan with a total gross value representing 52.7% of the yearly plan, an increase of 3.3% in labour productivity and a drop of 29% in production costs. Small industry and handicrafts have also made noticeable progress: export goods went up by 35.9% over the first six months of 1970. Many necessaries such as cloth, ready-made clothes, sugar, a number of metal, plastic and porcelain utensils have been turned out in adequate supply.*

Laos

32,790 Enemy Troops Put Out of Action in 7 Months

PLAF pursuing adverse remnants

In the first seven months of this year, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people launched repeated attacks on the enemy across the country and recorded big victories, *KPL* reported.

According to still incomplete figures, in this period they *put out of action over* 32,790 *enemy soldiers*, including more than 15,600 Saigon puppet troops, 250 US advisors and troops, over 2,000 Thai mercenaries, 11,140 men of Vang Pao's "special forces" and over 3,700 Vientiane rightist troops. They *shot down or destroyed on the ground* 657 *aircraft, mostly helicopters, captured or wrecked nearly* 800 *military vehicles* (half of them tanks and armoured cars), *nearly* 11,000 *guns of various calibres, hundreds of radio-transceivers and tens of thousands of tons of military equipment; burned more than* 5.8 *million litres of gasoline; sank or damaged many ships and motor-boats;* and *liberated over* 20,000 *people from the enemy's grip.*

In terms of units, the Lao patriotic forces and people neatly wiped out or heavily trounced 6 brigades, 3 regiments and dozens of battalions and companies of Saigon troops, Thai mercenaries and Vientiane rightist soldiers.

In the past seven-month period the Lao patriots wiped out the largest number of enemy troops, destroyed the largest quantity of war supplies, and neatly annihilated or heavily trounced the biggest units of the enemy forces" compared to any corresponding period, the agency noted.

The agency recalled that during the US-Saigon puppets' invasion of Southern Laos (February 8 — March 25), the Lao patriots killed, wounded or captured 16,400 among them nearly 50,000 Saigon puppet soldiers and American troops involved in this operation. They shot down or destroyed on the ground 496 enemy aircraft, captured or wrecked 586 military vehicles, and over 5,000 weapons of various kinds, dealing a heavy blow at the Nixon doctrine of "using Indochinese to fight Indochinese."

Cambodia

A Valiant Young Fighter

THE Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - In Tam clique dispatched in early January 1971 to Prey Chhor district (Kompong Cham province) a regiment of about 1,000 men on a large-scale raid against the North in an attempt to recapture Bos Knor area and Chomcar Loeu district.

The raiders, supported by aircraft and artillery and divided into small groups, tried to search out liberation fighters and herd the people in liberated areas into concentration centres.

Under the NUFK leadership, Khmer armed forces in Prey Chhor, were resolved to thwart the scheme and defend the revolutionary power and the people.

Cheang Kim Khoan and the ten other fighters of Unit 13 were assigned the task of confronting two adverse companies of about 200 men and forcing them back to Svay Tong, seat of their CP.

Though in numerical superiority and armed with modern weapons and with strong air and artillery support, the enemy troops were greatly scared by the Khmer armed forces' resolve to knock them out.

Unit 13 was split into groups of 3 and stood ready in fine fettle.

As usual, before moving into action the enemy mounted massive bombings and shellings, which proved ineffective. When the adversary reached their ambush site the patriotic forces opened fire, and after only two minutes, 20 Phnom Penh men were killed or wounded including a lieutenant.

The remainders fled in panic with the patriots hot on their heels. The Lon Nol commander ordered his men to turn about for a counter-attack, but the latter lay down on the ground and fired shots into the air, some of them wept out of fear.

A third attempt cost the assailants more casualties. They called for reinforcements to attack unit 13 from behind.

Seeing that his whole unit was threatened with complete annihilation, Cheang Kim Khoan told his group leader: "We are tightly encircled by the adversary. I suggest that our unit withdraw and let me stay behind alone to cope with them."

"I have to stay behind," replied the group leader, "you all pull out." "No," said Cheang Kim Khoan in a resolute voice.

Other fighters also came forward for the job.

The enemy continued to tighten their stranglehold, but none of the patriotic fighters wanted to leave. Cheang Kim Khoan again insisted: "I want to stay behind alone, let all of you evacuate to preserve our forces..."

Realizing that it was impossible to dissuade him, the other men of the unit retired in a silence heavy with emotion. A moment later, they succeeded in breaking through the enemy encirclement, but still heard Cheang Kim Khoan's rifle cracking. The young patriot was valiantly fighting back all adverse assaults.

But when finding that the patriot's firearm had no more ammunition left, the Phnom Penh commander ordered his men to catch him alive. The liberation fighter lay flat on the ground and waited for them. The enemy soldiers were closing in, and when they were about 20 metres from him, he hurled a handgrenade at them, taking a toll of 20. The remainders frightened by this sudden counter-attack, fled in disorder, but their officer coming behind them, forced them to advance with threats to cut them down.

"You are a lot of chicken-hearted boys!" he cried out, "are you afraid of a man who has no more bullets left. Try to capture him."

In the meantime, Cheang Kim Khoan waited with the calm of a revolutionary for long ready for the supreme sacrifice, his rifle tightly pressed against his heart. When the enemy came close, he exploded his last hand-grenade which violently shook the place and claimed 30 more casualties.

The survivors, officers and men alike, took to flight, and a long time later, only when they thought the place was secure, they came back to get the liberation fighter's body.

At nightfall, as the adversary suffered more than 100 casualties, they had to discontinue the raid and returned to their camps, bringing along their dead and wounded.

In other places, the raiders also came under our fighters' fierce attacks and sustained heavy losses. The large-scale "mop-up" operation thus ended in complete fiasco.

Frightened at the patriotic forces' determination to fight to a finish, the enemy no longer dared launch similar big-scale operations.

Cheang Kim Khoan has laid down his life, but his heroic example will never cease glowing in the hearts of our fighters and people.

AKI, *August 1st*, 1971

Nixon's Economic Measures—No Remedy For the Ailing US Economy

US magazine *Time* likened to "cosmetics" for a drab complexion all the new economic measures recently announced by Nixon. In his August 15 address, Nixon bragged that with his new steps he would win the battle on three fronts: against unemployment, against inflation and for the defence of the dollar.

Nixon ordered a freeze on wages and prices for a period of 90 days, a reduction in income tax, a cut of 7% of the excise tax on automobiles and an increase of 10% the credit for investments in machinery and new equipment production. He also declared a 5% cut-back of the government personnel, a freeze on salaries in the administrative services and postponement for a year of the welfare reform program and the federal government's sharing of revenues with the states.

These moves immediately triggered strong protests in the country and in the world. US public opinion has termed Nixon's moves as dowaright "repression of the workers" (Grospiron, president of Oil Chemical and Atomic Worker International Union), an attempt to shift the burden of inflation on the American labourers (Harry Bridges, president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union) and to "rob the US workers of millions of dollars" (George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO).

The US working class has therefore flatly rejected Nixon's palliative. Throughout the States, the 370-odd strikes of workers of the warehouse, telephone, automobile and building services are going on. In particular, the major stoppage of longshoremen on the West coast of the US has entered its 60th day. The leaders of big trade unions in the US have met to decide on plans of action and declared "non-co-operation" with Nixon in his move.

With regard to Nixon's decision to suspend temporarily the convertibility of the US dollar into gold and other reserves and to increase by 10% the import duties and cut down by 10% US aid to foreign countries, public opinion in the world has pointed out that this actually amounts to a devaluation of the dollar (*AP*) and a very brazen declaration of bankruptcy with the US allies (*AFP*). It shows to the world the "incompetence" and the running-out of gold reserve, of the US (*Le Monde*). It is no accident that the August 15 address of Nixon has drawn very pessimistic comments throughout the world: "economic madness" (Senator Mc Govern), a "wrong calculation" (US economist Paul Samuelson); it would not lead to an actual reduction of unemployment in the US, could not end the run-away inflation nor improve the very precarious position of the dollar on the international market (Prof. J. Galbraith, Harvard University). These measures have only shown the "bankruptcy of the US economic policies" (the Soviet paper *Izvestia*) and only reflected the truth that "the dollar crisis which has been going on for many months now has reached its high" (West German paper *Rheinische Post*) causing upheavals on the world monetary market (Free Belgium) and leading to the greatest chaos and confusion ever seen in the United States, Japan, Western and Northern Europe (*AFP*).

IN August 1969, six months after he took office, Nixon declared he would keep inflation under control and stabilize the US economy. But the result of his first economic policies was a prolonged "recession" in the United States. Early 1971, Nixon sent an economic report to the US Congress, proposing a series of measures aimed at rehabilitating and developing the economy, boosting the growth rate of the GNP by 9% in 1971, cutting down the inflation rate to 4.5%, ending unemployment, etc.

But so far Nixon has achieved nothing except a growing disruption of the US economy and finance and a graver economic crisis. Industrial production in June 1971 was down by 3.8% compared with July 1969. The factories are operating at only 73% of their capacity. The unemployment rate in the labour force may exceed 6%. Inflation remains at a critical level and prices have increased 7%. In the first seven months of 1971, the US trade balance suffered a deficit of 676 million dollars. In July alone, the deficit rose to a record high: 304.1 million dollars. The international balance of payments of the US showed a loss of 12 billion dollars and the US gold reserve has dropped to a mere 9,700 million dollars (equivalent to one-third of the gold and foreign exchange reserves of West Germany and Japan). The US dollar has gone through two serious crises in the past three months. Its depreciation is continuing and its slump is obvious even after Nixon's August 15, 1971 announcement.

UPI reported on August 15 that the US dollar continued to drop in value compared with the currencies of West Germany, Britain, France, Italy, etc. "On the monetary markets in Northern Europe the US dollar is even weaker" and over the past few days it has become "a germ-carrying currency" in any bank, hotel and shop" of the said countries.

It is clear that with his new economic policies Nixon has tried to hide this tragic situation from public opinion in the United States and the world. However, his "program to build a new prosperity without war" is torn with contradictions and is doomed to failure at the very outset. It is synonym with cynical deception and a very cunning effort to remain in the White House for another term.

This is the fourth time Nixon acted as a quack for the ailing US economy. But as such he has again prescribed a wrong remedy. He has not the courage to admit that one of the main causes of the present drawn-out crisis of the US economy is the US war of aggression in Indochina. Just as pointed out by Chilean Senator Jose Cade Martoni, "The main cause of the dollar crisis is the deficit of the US balance of payments generated by the huge expenditures for the Viet Nam war." The paper *La Republique* (Algeria) noted: "The Viet Nam war and US military intervention in foreign countries have been a drain on the US gold reserve and eventually have depleted it.

MORE than thirty years ago when the dollar replaced the pound as the dominating currency of the capitalist world, hardly anybody could foresee such a situation as the dollar is facing today. Nixon's new economic policies reflect the chaos that is prevailing in the world capitalist system and the aggravation of the general crisis of the imperialist system (Statement of the Political Bureau of the US Communist Party). They also harbinger the still heavier collapse of the dollar. It is not fortuitous that the worsening of the dollar crisis takes place at a time when the failure of the US in the aggressive war in Indochina has become only too evident. That is why, it is also apparent that the only way for the US to pull out from that impasse is to end the carnage in Viet Nam (the Italian paper *Rinascita*). "Any other measure will be ineffective if the US refuses to promptly end this [aggressive] war" (Statement of the Political Bureau of the US Communist Party).

LUU NGUYEN

U.S. policy in Asia
Cartoon from a U.S. paper

in brief ★ in brief

• *In their letters to the Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Embassy of the RSVN in Algeria, Foreign Minister Diallo Saifoulaye of the Republic of Guinea and Foreign Minister Amadou Karim of the Republic of Senegal warmly welcomed the 7-point peace initiative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.*

• *On August 19 in Bamako, speaking at a reception given to the visiting RSVN Ambassador, Mali Acting Foreign Minister Youssouf Traore said: "Mali's support for the South Vietnamese people is natural because now as in the past and in the future, Mali is always standing beside the peoples fighting for their legitimate rights and interests."*

• *On August 25 in New Delhi, 237 Indian MPs signed a petition urging the United States to withdraw the entirety of its military forces and war materials, including air and naval forces, from Indochina and stop the bombing in and out of Indochina at the earliest date in 1971.*

• *On August 20, the 4th Congress of the Palestinian General Federation of Labour held in Damascus declared the anti-US militant solidarity of the Palestinian people with the peoples of the three Indochinese countries for the sake of national liberation and for the freedom and the right of self-determination of the peoples.*

• *On August 20-22, in Trondhjem (Norway), representatives of over 20 social and mass organizations and political parties together with large numbers of people held a series of demonstrations urging the local authorities to immediately stop the showing of the US racist film "Green Berets" in this town.*

• *On August 19, the Conference of Independent Trade Unions in Stockholm (Sweden) sent a message to the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam greeting the gains of the South Viet Nam people and pledging to increase actions of solidarity with the peoples of the three Indochinese countries in their resistance to US aggression.*

• *On August 21, 15 well-known American lawyers led by Judge David Norwell of New Mexico state and Congressman Robert Mann decided to launch a campaign to pressure the US Supreme Court into condemning Nixon's war prolongation in Viet Nam and called on congressmen and attorneys in other states to step up their actions for an immediate end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam.*

SOUTH VIET NAM in the struggle — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION